

M E L T O N M O W B R A Y

U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

for the

Y E A R E N D I N G

31st D E C E M B E R, 1 9 4 9.

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MELTON MOWBRAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

1 9 4 9

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, we deal briefly in this report with matters within our responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine:-

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	5,658
Registrar General's estimate of population					Civilian	13,350
					Total	13,610
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...		3,555
Rateable value	...	...	...	...		£78,316
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...		£298

VITAL STATISTICS

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	119	129	248
	Illegitimate	12	4	16
		---	---	---
		131	133	264
		===	===	===
Still Births	Legitimate	2	-	2
	Illegitimate	-	1	1
		---	---	---
		2	1	3
		===	===	===
			<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 population		...	21.1	19.8
Birth Rate for England & Wales		...	17.9	16.7

Vital Statistics continued:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Number of Deaths	90	65	155
Death Rate per 1,000 population		<u>1948</u> 9.1	<u>1949</u> 11.3
Death Rate for England & Wales		10.8	11.7

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Deaths of infants under			
1 year of age. Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	2	1	3
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	4	3	7
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	43	26
Infant Mortality Rate for Endland & Wales	34	32

The Birth Rate of 19.8 is lower than last year, but still above the rate for England and Wales.

The Death Rate of 11.3 per thousand of the population is slightly higher than last year, which was the lowest ever recorded.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is very satisfactory and a tribute to the Maternity and Child Welfare work carried out in the town.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	5	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	-	1
Influenza ...	1	-
Cancer of stomach and duodenum .	1	1
Cancer of breast ...	-	5
Cancer of all other sites ...	13	3
Diabetes ...	2	-
Intracranial vascular lesions .	11	8
Heart diseases ...	22	20
Other diseases of circulatory system .	5	2
Bronchitis ...	2	2
Pneumonia ...	5	5
Other respiratory diseases ...	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	1	-
Appendicitis .	1	-
Other digestive disorders ...	1	1
Nephritis ...	2	-
Premature birth ...	3	-
Congenital malformation, birth injury, infant diseases ...	1	2
Suicide ...	3	1
Road Traffic accidents ..	1	1
Other violent causes ...	2	2
All other causes ...	7	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	90	65
	<hr/>	<hr/>

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

John Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Camb.)

Medical Officer of Health for the Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

H. Buxton, M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Meat & Foods Inspector.

S.J. Mayo, A.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.

Additional sanitary Inspector (appointed 1st March, 1949).

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following examinations were carried out during the year in the County Laboratory and the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester:-

County Laboratory

Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

Public Health Laboratory

Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
Throat Swab	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sputum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Urine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Fluid from Chest Aspiration	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Culture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nose Swab	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Blood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Breast Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pleural Effusion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Swab from Abscess in Thigh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sewage Effluent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Swab and Slide from Eyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pus from Eye	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Eye Film Culture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

I would like to call attention to the increased number of specimens which are now being examined and to record my appreciation of the excellent co-operation received from the Director of the Public Health Laboratory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

(1) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1949

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	12	-	-
Pneumonia	52	-	10
Dysentery	2	-	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	-
Measles	245	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
	<u>317</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>

AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 9	10 14	15 19	20 34	35 44	45 64	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	1	-	2	1	-	6	-	1	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	2	2	3	1	1	5	1	1	6	7	14	9
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	7	24	29	37	39	98	5	1	4	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	10	26	34	40	40	110	6	3	12	9	17	10

Scarlet Fever. The Scarlet Fever cases were of the usual mild type which is prevalent nowadays.

Poliomyelitis. Poliomyelitis again assumed epidemic proportions throughout the country during the year but in Melton we escaped lightly with only one case notified.

Diphtheria. It is worth noting that diphtheria was absent. The immunisation carried out in the town during the past few years has been well worth while.

(2) Tuberculosis

AGE GROUPS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	5	1	-	1	2	1	-	1
35 - 44	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 54	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	11	7	1	1	5	2	-	1

Number of Cases on Register at 31st December, 1949.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Pulmonary	32	14
Non-pulmonary	5	10

(3) Diphtheria Immunisation

On July 5th. 1948, the responsibility of the scheme for the immunisation of children against diphtheria was transferred to the new Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

During the year 1949, 179 children under five years of age were immunised against diphtheria, and 38 children aged 4 to 12 years were given a "booster dose".

Diphtheria Immunisation continued:

Number of children immunised against diphtheria since the scheme was started in 1941:-

	<u>No. immunised</u>
1941	1,946
1942	565
1943	398
1944	226
1945	224
1946	205
1947	187
1948	248
1949	179

TOTAL	4,178
	=====

Cases of diphtheria notified since 1940

	<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>5-15 years.</u>	<u>Over 15 years.</u>
1940	6	7	6
1941	10	38	12
1942	3	4	1
1943	Nil	Nil	2
1944	Nil	Nil	Nil
1945	Nil	3	Nil
1946	Nil	Nil	1
1947	Nil	Nil	Nil
1948	Nil	Nil	Nil
1949	Nil	Nil	Nil

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) Water Supply

Number of samples taken for analysis:-

(a) from piped supply	...	...	...	4
(b) from wells	...	...	...	Nil

2 samples of water for bacteriological examination and 2 samples for chemical analysis from the piped supply were all satisfactory.

The reports obtained show that the water supply was satisfactory as regards quality, but supplies had to be restricted at times during the year, particularly the supply to the high pressure system. Efforts are still being made to augment the supply, and negotiations proceeding for an additional supply from Leicester City Corporation. It is hoped that the good efforts of the Council to obtain an additional supply of water from the proposed Leicester City Corporation scheme will be successful and that early agreement will be reached by all Authorities concerned so that the work can be put in hand as soon as possible. This scheme will meet an urgent need of the town.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage

Number of cesspools in the District at the end of 1949 6

No new cesspools were constructed during the year. One cesspool was abolished and the drains connected to the main sewer.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area continued:

(3) Closet Accommodation.

Total number in the District at the end of 1949:-

(a) Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Water Closets	...	...	...	...	3,790

(4) Public Cleansing.

House refuse is collected by direct labour for disposal at the Destructor Works.

Practically all houses are provided with movable dustbins.

House refuse and salvage material are collected as far as possible weekly throughout the area, and larger accumulations are collected as requested.

Good progress was made in the salvaging of all classes of materials, the value of the salvage dealt with during the year being £2,121, a total value since November, 1939 of £17,237.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report:-

Total number of complaints received 152

Total number of defects or nuisances discovered 346

<u>Nature of Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>	<u>Revisits</u>
Dwelling houses (all purposes)	356	332
Animal keeping	14	9
Bakehouses	12	10
Dairies and cowsheds	18	26
Drainage Works	19	40
Food premises	108	89
Rats and mice destruction	52	120
Refuse collection and disposal	25	32
Schools	3	4
Shops	48	12
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	6	471
Verminous premises	24	51
Water supplies	6	4
Factories	36	15
Other inspections	24	45
	<u>751</u>	<u>1,260</u>

NOTICES

<u>Preliminary</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
Outstanding on 1st January	12	9
Issued during the year	41	59
Complied with during the year	47	64
Statutory action necessary	Nil	Nil
Outstanding on 31st December	6	4
<u>Statutory</u>	Nil	Nil

Sanitary Inspection of the Area continued:

SHOPS

Action taken under the Provisions of the Shops Act, 1934:-

6 defects were found relating to sanitary conveniences, and all were remedied.

REGULATED BUILDINGS.

	<u>Number in District</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Common Lodging Houses	2	17

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(a) Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health:-

	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	45	25	2	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	72	20	2	-
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	6	6	-	-
Total	123	51	4	-

(b) Cases in which defects were found:-

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>by H.M. Inspector</u>
Want of cleanliness:	3	3	-	1
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(i) Insufficient	1	1	-	-
(ii) Unsuitable or defective	7	6	-	5
(iii) Not seperate for sexes	1	1	-	-
Total	12	11	-	6

(c) Outwork:-

Number of outworkers in August list ... 49
There were no instances of outwork in unwholesome premises.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(a) Publicly owned. One Children's Swimming Pool owned by the Town Estate and one Paddling Pool owned by the Urban District Council.

Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public continued:

- (b) Privately owned. One open-air swimming pool.

Samples of water taken from the Paddling Pool, Thorpe Road, proved unsatisfactory, due to the pollution of the brook which supplies the pool with water.

In view of the polluted water supply and possible serious danger to health, the use of this Paddling Pool has been discontinued and consideration is being given to the possibility of constructing a new pool with a safe water supply from the town main.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

After pre-bait testing two maintenance treatments were carried out during the year to destroy rats in the main sewers throughout the District, with very satisfactory results.

Minor rat infestations at the destructor works, sewage disposal works and Saxby Road refuse tip have been dealt with, also minor rats or mice infestations at 38 private premises.

H O U S I N G

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) | (i) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 114 |
| | (ii) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | | | | | | 278 |
| (b) | | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| (c) | | Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | | | | | 111 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notice

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	90
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

Proceedings under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts	Nil
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4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

Complete details of all overcrowding in the District cannot be given, but, from the information supplied by the 566 applicants for Council Houses, there are many cases of overcrowding, and the position is still difficult.

During the year, 41 families have been transferred to Council Houses, chiefly on the grounds of overcrowding or special health conditions, including 29 cases of families living in lodgings.

Consideration has also been given to Council House tenants who require a larger house and other cases where a small type of house would meet their need, and in order to make the fullest use of available accommodation, 5 Council House exchanges have been effected.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding continued:

The total number of persons rehoused, including Council House exchanges, is 171.

In addition to conditions of overcrowding, there are a considerable number of houses in the town which in normal times would have been condemned and demolished, but, until such time as the housing situation has considerably improved, all that can be done in these cases is to ask that urgent and essential repairs should be carried out. .

5. New Houses

	<u>By Local Authority</u>	<u>By Private Enterprise</u>
Number of permanent houses completed during the year	42	8
Number of houses in course of erection at the end of the year	52	14
Total number of post war houses completed	208	48

6. Occupied Houses

Total number of occupied houses in district	...	3555
Total number of Council houses occupied	..	451

7. Housing Applications

(1) Revision of Register

Of 640 Ministry of Health Enquiry Forms, which were sent in March, 1949 to all applicants on the Housing Register, 21 were returned showing that the applicants did not wish to remain on the register, 143 forms were not returned, leaving 476 "live" applications on the Housing Register.

(2) Detailed Summary of Housing Applications Showing Position at 31st December, 1949.

Total Number of Applications	...	...	...	566
(a) Number of Applications from Persons residing outside the Urban District	...	...	...	141
(i) In Lodgings	...	...	...	76
(ii) Householders	...	...	...	65
			141	
(iii) Working within Urban District	...	...	58	
(iv) Working outside Urban District	...	...	83	
			141	
(b) Number of Applications from Persons residing within the Urban District	...	...	...	425

(i) Dates of Submission of Applications:

	Prior to 31/12/46	To 31/12/47	To 31/12/48	To 31/12/49	Total
In Lodgings	59	51	67	85	262
Householders	67	30	38	28	163
Totals	126	81	105	113	425

7. Housing Applications continued:

(ii) Applicants residing in Lodgings:

Size of Family	No. of Families.
One Applicant	1
Two Females	1
Applicant with One Child	1
Man and Wife	78
Man and Wife (Expectant Mother)	11
Man, Wife and One Child	95
Man, Wife (Expectant Mother) and One Child	14
Applicant with Two Children	1
Man, Wife and Two Children	41
Man, Wife (Expectant Mother) and Two Children	5
Applicant with Three Children	1
Man, Wife and Three Children	12
Man, Wife and Six Children	1
Total	262

(iii) Applications from Householders:

Size of Family	Number of Bedrooms in House.							Total.
	NH ⁺	1	2	3	4	5	6	
One Applicant	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Applicant with one Child	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Man and Wife	1	1	8	1	-	-	1	12
Two Applicants	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Man, Wife and One Child	4	3	15	9	2	-	-	33
Man, Wife (Expectant Mother) and One Child	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Applicant with Two Children	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	4
Man, Wife and Two Children	5	2	28	14	2	-	-	51
Man, Wife (Expectant Mother) and Two Children	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Applicant with Three Children	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Man, Wife and Three Children	3	-	10	8	2	-	-	23
Man, Wife (Expectant Mother) and Three Children	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Applicant with Four Children	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Man, Wife and Four Children	1	-	7	3	1	-	-	12
Man, Wife and Five Children	1	-	5	4	1	-	-	11
Man, Wife and Six Children	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Man, Wife and Eight Children	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Totals	16	6	79	51	9	1	1	163

+ NH - Nissen Hut

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. (a) Milk Supply

Cowkeepers.

Dairyman or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)

Number on Register	23	6
Number of inspections of premises	19	15
Number of contraventions outstanding from 1948	1	Nil
Number of contraventions found during year	5	3
Number of contraventions remedied during year	5	3

Inspection and Supervision of Food continued:

Milk Supply - Total Contraventions

	<u>Outstanding from Previous Year</u>	<u>Found during Year</u>	<u>Remedied during Year</u>
Cleansing	Nil	4	4
Structural			
Alterations	1	3	3
Utensils	Nil	1	1

(b) Milk Sampling

70 samples of milk were taken during the year as follows:-

<u>Class.</u>	<u>Number of samples for bact. exam.</u>	<u>Number Satisfactory</u>	<u>Number Unsatisfactory</u>
Designated	21	19	2
Ordinary	49	42	7

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples, an inspection is made of the premises, advice given on methods of production and handling and repeat samples taken.

Nine repeat samples taken were satisfactory.

(c) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations - Licences Issued

"Tuberculin Tested" Milk:	Supplementary Licences	1
"Pasteurised" Milk:	Pastuerising Plants	1
	Dealers Licences	1
	Supplementary Licences	1
"Sterilised" Milk:	Dealers Licences	1

On 1st October, 1949, the administration of the Regulations relating to the production of milk at dairy farms became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, but the supervision of the handling and distribution of milk from dairies, other than dairy farms, remains the responsibility of the Local Authority.

2. Ice Cream

Number of premises registered:-

(a) Manufacture and retail	...	...	...	3
(b) Manufacture only	...	...	...	1
(c) Retail only	...	...	...	27
Number of inspections of premises	.	...	...	55

Number of samples taken	... 20.	Results:	Grade 1 ... 13
			Grade 2 ... 4
			Grade 3 ... 1
			Grade 4 ... 1

Repeat samples of the Grade 3 and 4 samples were satisfactory.

At 24 of the 27 registered retail premises, only pre-packed ice cream is sold.

3. Meat and Other Foods

Number of Regional Slaughterhouses in area	...	...	1
Number of animals slaughtered	...	...	9,054
Number of inspections of meat at times of slaughter			471
Number of knacker's yards in area	.	...	1
Number of visits to knacker's yards	...	...	6

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number killed and inspected	1,110	557	976	5,891	520	9,054
<u>All diseases except T.B.</u>						Weight in lbs.
Whole carcasses condemned	17	22	24	76	11	24,864
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	533	222	6	112	37	15,477
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	49.5%	43.8%	3.1%	3.2%	9.2%	40,341
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	20	24	1	Nil	4	26,297
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	196	146	Nil	Nil	29	9,956
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	19.5%	30.5%	0.1%	Nil	7.3%	36,253

Total 76,594

34 tons, 3 cwts., 98 lbs. of meat condemned during the year compared with 24 tons, 20 lbs. last year.

	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Meat shops, Meat stores, etc	42
Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale	125

The following foods were condemned and voluntarily surrendered:

Imported Meat	267 lbs.
Fish	403 lbs.
Other Foods	318 lbs.
Total	<u>988 lbs.</u>

and 1, 625 tins and jars of various foods.

Food exposed for sale in the open Market is regularly inspected.

We have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servants,
J. YOUNG
Medical Officer of Health.
H. BUXTON
Sanitary Inspector.

